



# Congressional Update



Volume I Issue 2

July 2006

## Arizona Game and Fish Commission

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**Congressional Update** is published by the Arizona Game and Fish Department Legislative Affairs Division throughout the year. We provide a summary of legislation and national news that pertains to the Department.

## National News:

- Senate Maintains Funding for **State Wildlife Grants** Program. On June 27, the U.S. Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee voted to provide level funding at \$67.5 million for the State Wildlife Grants Program in FY07. This is an increase from the \$50 million suggested last month by the U.S. House of Representatives, but still falls short of the \$74.7 million in the President's budget and the \$85 million supported by 226 members of Congress. A final figure will be determined in a House/Senate conference.
- Recently, 41 conservation organizations sent a letter to Capitol Hill in support of **H.R. 5539**, a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. This effort, coordinated by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, collectively represents millions of hunters, anglers, natural resource professionals and others who share a strong interest in traditional conservation values and America's fish and wildlife resources.

## Congressional Legislation

**House Bills: 4**  
**Senate Bills: 2**  
**Total: 6**

### **H.R.2720**

**Title:** To further the purposes of the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 by directing the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, to carry out an assessment and demonstration program to control salt cedar and Russian olive, and for other purposes.

**Sponsor:** Rep Pearce, Stevan [NM-2] (introduced 5/26/2005) Cosponsors (9)

**Related Bills:** S.177

**Latest Major Action:** 5/3/2006 Received in the Senate. Read twice. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 420.

**House Reports:** 109-341 Part 1

**Game and Fish Provision(s):** \$250,000 grant available

### **H.R.5136**

**Title:** To establish a National Integrated Drought Information System within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to improve drought monitoring and forecasting capabilities.

**Sponsor:** Rep Hall, Ralph M. [TX-4] (introduced 4/6/2006) Cosponsors (10)

**Related Bills:** S.2751

**Latest Major Action:** 6/15/2006 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 280.

**House Reports:** 109-503

**Game and Fish Provision(s):** will improve drought monitoring and forecasting capabilities for the Arizona region.

### **H.R.5386**

**Title:** Making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

**Sponsor:** Rep Taylor, Charles H. [NC-11] (introduced 5/15/2006) Cosponsors (None)

**Related Bills:** H.RES.818

**Latest Major Action:** 6/29/2006 Senate committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Committee on Appropriations. Date of scheduled consideration and markup session. SD-106. 2:00 p.m.

**House Reports:** 109-465

**Game and Fish Provision(s):** several federal funds that the Department receives in match money.

### **H.R.5539**

**Title:** To reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Reauthorization Act.

**Sponsor:** Rep Pombo, Richard W. [CA-11] (introduced 6/7/2006) Cosponsors (6)

**Latest Major Action:** 6/9/2006 House committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Executive Comment Requested from Interior.

**Game and Fish Provision(s):** Grants and federal funding available to state agencies.

### **S.548**

**Title:** A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make their land available for access by the public under programs administered by States and tribal governments.

**Sponsor:** Sen Conrad, Kent [ND] (introduced 3/8/2005) Cosponsors (22)

**Related Bills:** H.R.1351

**Latest Major Action:** 3/8/2005 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

**Game and Fish Provision(s):** allow access to hunting/fishing

### **S.3497**

**Title:** A bill to provide for the exchange of certain Bureau of Land Management land in Pima County, Arizona, and for other purposes.

**Sponsor:** Sen Kyl, Jon [AZ] (introduced 6/13/2006)    Cosponsors (1)

**Related Bills:** H.R.5016

**Latest Major Action:** 6/13/2006 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

**Game and Fish Provision(s):** provides for transfer of land affecting wildlife and provides for *permanent legal public access* into the Coronado National Forest, Whetstone Mountains.

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## Arizona Congressional Delegation

### U.S. Senate (2)

#### Senator Jon Kyl

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#### Senator John McCain

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**The Congressional Update is available  
on-line at the [AGFD](http://www.azgfd.gov) web site: [www.azgfd.gov](http://www.azgfd.gov)**

If you have questions relating to legislation, please contact AGFD Legislative Liaison  
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